

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2143

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND
COORDINATION. ACC ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRAM COORDINATION
IN UN. USDEL REPORT NO. 14

1. SUMMARY. IN THE MORNING OF JUNE 9, PROBABLY AT THE
REQUEST OF BELGIUM (PIRSON), THE CPC REOPENED CONSIDERA-
TION OF AGENDA ITEM 7 IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION
FOR 1977/78 (E/1978/43). COMMENTS WERE MADE ON CHAPTERS
5 (RURAL DEVELOPMENT), 7 (PUBLIC INFORMATION), 8
(PERSONNEL), AND 9 (INTERORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION
SYSTEMS.). COMMITTEE ALSO CONFIRMED AGENDA FOR JULY
CPC/ACC MEETINGS. END SUMMARY

2. BELGIUM LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON CHAPTER 5, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FOR THE EXCEEDINGLY SLOW PROGRESS OF THE ACC
TASK FORCE. NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE UN'S PILOT PROJECT
IN JOINT PROGRAMMING AND THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT, THE
BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE EXERCISE HAD
BEGUN IN 1975 BUT HAD STILL APPARENTLY NOT GOTTEN
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DOWN TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL. HE NOTED THAT ONLY ONE THEME
HAD SO FAR BEEN IDENTIFIED--INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION. HE REQUESTED THAT THIS TOPIC
BE TAKEN UP AT THE JOINT CPC/ACC MEETINGS IN JULY AND
THAT THE ACC BE ASKED TO GIVE A MUCH FULLER DESCRIPTION
OF THE PROJECT AT THAT TIME.

3. FAO AND SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE SLOW PACE IN TERMS OF VARYING BUDGET CYCLES AND THE NEED FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL AT VARIOUS STAGES. THEY AFFIRMED THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF IMPACT HAD ALREADY BEEN FELT IN AGENCY PROGRAMS AND THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN THE 1980-81 BUDGET. THIS CLEARLY DID NOT IMPRESS OR CONVINCE PIRSON HOWEVER.

4. IN CHAPTER 7, BELGIUM DESCRIBED AS VAGUE THE WORDING OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION THEME FOR 1978-79, "HUMAN NEEDS IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BY PAKISTAN, GHANA, ARGENTINA, AND THE USSR WHO PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE THEME, SUGGESTED THAT AN OPI REPRESENTATIVE BE CALLED IN TO CLARIFY IT, AND--WITHOUT EXPLICITLY SAYING SO--SOUGHT TO AMEND THE WORDING TO MAKE IT CONFORM TO THE PRECISE WORDS ADVOCATED BY THE GROUP OF 77. THE CHAIRMAN SAID IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO CALL IN AN OPI REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS STAGE, AND EVENTUALLY THE COMMITTEE AGREED IT WAS NOT WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION TO ALTER THE THEME.

5. THE MOST SERIOUS QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH CHAPTER 8, PERSONNEL. TAKING THE ACC REPORT AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE, PIRSON STERNLY DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE ILO HAD DEPARTED FROM AN ACC AGREED UNCLASSIFIED

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POSITION WITH RESPECT TO GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES IN GENEVA AND HAD UNILATERALLY SEEN FIT NOT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED BY ALL. DECLARING IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR AN AGENCY TO GO IT ALONE IN THIS AREA, HE RECOMMENDED THAT THIS BE BROUGHT UP AT THE JOINT MEETINGS. THE US (CUNNINGHAM), UK, PAKISTAN, AND GHANA ALL ENDORSED THE VIEWS OF BELGIUM IN STRONGEST TERMS.

6. FINALLY, REGARDING CHAPTER 9, INTERORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS, BELGIUM NOTED THAT THE INTER-ORGANIZATION BOARD FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IOB) HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1970, BUT THAT THERE WERE NOW 49 DIFFERENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN USE, MOST OF THEM NOT COMPATIBLE. WHAT, HE WISHED TO KNOW, HAD THE IOB BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS? FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WAS DEFERRED WHEN THE CHAIRMAN REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT IT WAS ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SECOND PART OF THE SESSION.

7. THE MORNING ENDED WITH A CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE CPC AND ACC ON JULY

4 AND 5. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE CPC HAD PROPOSED THE TWO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA--LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (E/1978/43/ADD.1) AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (E/AC.51/90/ADD. 1--NOT YET AVAILABLE)--AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ACC. SEVERAL QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE DOCUMENTATION, WITH BELGIUM WONDERING WHETHER USYG RIPERT'S SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS TO E/1978/43/ADD.1 MIGHT NOT ALSO BE AVAILABLE, BUT THE CHAIRMAN SAID THEY WERE NOT. THE CHAIRMAN APOLOGIZED FOR THE LATENESS OF THE DOCUMENTATION BUT MAINTAINED IT STILL SHOWED PROGRESS BECAUSE THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY DOCUMENTATION FOR THESE MEETINGS BEFORE. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO SLID AROUND BELGIUM'S REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND

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PERSONNEL (SEE ABOVE) BY EMPHASIZING AGAIN THE

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SHORTNESS OF THE MEETINGS (ONE AND A HALF DAYS ONLY) AND THAT THE CPC HAD PROPOSED THE TWO TOPICS. THE COMMITTEE BOWED TO THE INEVITABLE AND ACQUIESCED IN THE PROPOSED AGENDA.

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